

MINUTES OF NEWBURYPORT TREE COMMISSION

June 8, 2017

Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library

Meeting Convened at 7:05 PM.

Tree Commission members (TC) present: Constance Preston (Treasurer) (**CP**); Crispin Miller (Chair) (**CM**), Wayne Amaral, Tree Warden and Deputy Director/Director of Operations Department of Public Services, ex-officio (**WA**), David Dylewski (**DD**), Paul Bevilacqua (Secretary) (**PB**), Sheila Taintor (**ST**), Kim Kudym (**KK**)

Members Absent: Jane Niebling (**JN**)

Open time for Residents

No residents attended.

Report of the Secretary

The Minutes of the May 11, 2017 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved as submitted. **PB** will be absent for the July and August meetings. **ST** will serve as Secretary.

Report of the Treasurer

CP submitted her report, in advance as well as distributing copies at the meeting. The report was discussed and unanimously accepted.

Report of the Tree Warden:

June 8, 2017

1. Trees Removed in 2017.

The most recent trees are:

- #21-25 Milk Street (2 trees)
- #16 Hope Avenue

The total number of trees removed for 2017 is 49.

0 Non-High Hazard trees have been removed.

2. Nock Middle School. Planting 2 trees on June 9th and planning on planting two additional trees next week.

Activity Reports

Tree Regulations/ Tree Plan

PB noted that there has been no activity to report. Members present did not suggest any changes.

Planting and Pruning

Spring 2017 Planting: **DD** reported that the total number of trees to be planted is 19.

Six trees will be planted by volunteers. The trees will be planted by June 19.

Fall 2017 Planting: **DD** reported that up to 39 trees will be planted in the Fall: 20 as part of the **High Street Project** and 19 as the regularly scheduled plantings funded by a free cash allocation and other donations. A contract was awarded to Plants and Pleasantrees to plant the trees.

2017 Watering: DD reported at the May meeting that 115 trees would be watered from May 15-September 15, subject to modification due to weather conditions. To date trees have only needed to be watered once given the volume of rain. They will be watered the week of June 10.

Nock School: CP reported that the project is in the initial stages. She and others have met with school officials, including the Superintendent of Schools, and walked the property to begin to determine the scope of the project and alternatives for planting. Four donated trees will be planted at this time by DPS. They will be cared for by the schools. At this point the involvement of the TC is to provide expertise on a consulting basis.

Grants/Donations:

JN was not present. CM reported on behalf of JN and proposed a new initiative on an experimental/trial basis. A resident has contributed money to FoNT to plant a tree. The resident asked to be able to designate a recently planted tree in honor of a colleague and friend. The tree located on Green Street in front of the Immaculate Conception Church was selected given the honoree's involvement with the Church. Additionally FoNT is developing a small plaque to attach to the tree with the name of the honoree. The donated funds-\$250.00- will be used to purchase a tree to be planted at allocation to be determined by the TC.

The TC voted unanimously to accept the donation from FoNT and approved the designation of the tree in honor of the individual. CM noted that JN and the newly designated FoNT coordinator of donations, Stephanie Pellegrino, will work out the details with WA and other appropriate persons. FoNT will notify the honoree and the donor of the action. The TC strongly supported the experiment and viewed it as one more mechanism for raising funds to plant trees.

Community Outreach

KK was congratulated on the excellent article which appeared in the Daily News regarding the tree planting on the Mall. There was discussion of whether and how to develop a TC archive which could possibly be placed on line on the TC website.

Tree Inventory

CM reported on the initial meeting of the group conducting the Inventory. Group members shared their experiences and impressions to date.

Old Business

FY 18 Budget: It appears that the TC will receive a substantial increase in the allocation to DPS for purchasing, planting and caring for trees.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Paul M. Bevilacqua, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday July 13, 2017 at 7 PM

Location: Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library